

Before the
Administrative Hearing Commission
State of Missouri



PHYSICIANS REIMBURSEMENT
CENTER,

Petitioner,

vs.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES,
MISSOURI MEDICAID AUDIT
AND COMPLIANCE UNIT

Respondent.

No. 13-1716 SP

DECISION

We dismiss the complaint filed by Physicians Reimbursement Center (“Physicians”) because the amount of reimbursement requested is less than \$500.00. We lack jurisdiction to hear it.

Procedure

On September 30, 2013, Physicians filed a complaint appealing the denial of its claim by the Department of Social Services, Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance Unit (“the Department”) for reimbursement of Medicaid funds in the amount of \$72.11. On October 8, 2013, the Department filed a motion to dismiss based on the information in the complaint. We gave Physicians until October 24, 2013, to respond to the motion, but it did not respond. We find the following facts undisputed.

Findings of Fact

1. Physicians billed Medicaid for its professional services in the amount of \$72.11 based on its treatment of patient A.F. The Department paid Physicians' claim for reimbursement.
2. The Department requested a refund of this money, and Physicians appealed this decision.

Conclusions of Law

The Department argues that we do not have jurisdiction over this case because the amount in controversy is less than \$500.00. If we have no jurisdiction to hear the petition, we cannot reach the merits of the case and can only exercise our inherent power to dismiss.¹

Our jurisdiction in Medicaid cases is set forth in § 208.156.2,² which states:

Any person authorized under section 208.153 to provide services for which benefit payments are authorized under section 208.152 whose claim for reimbursement for such services is denied or is not acted upon with reasonable promptness shall be entitled to a hearing before the administrative hearing commission pursuant to the provisions of chapter 621, RSMo.

However, our jurisdiction is limited by § 208.156.6, which states:

No provider of service may file a petition for a hearing before the administrative hearing commission unless the amount for which he seeks reimbursement exceeds five hundred dollars.

Because Physicians' appeal involves \$72.11, an amount under \$500.00, we lack jurisdiction. This does not mean Physicians has completely lost its right to appeal this claim; it simply cannot pursue it at this time. Section 208.156.8 states that "claims of less than five hundred dollars may be accumulated until they total that sum and at which time the provider shall have ninety days to file his petition."

¹*Oberreiter v. Fullbright Trucking*, 24 S.W.3d 727, 729 (Mo. App., E.D. 2000).

²Statutory references are to RSMo 2000.

Because the amount in controversy is less than \$500.00, we have no jurisdiction to hear this appeal. We grant the motion to dismiss.

Summary

We dismiss this case because we lack jurisdiction to hear it.

SO ORDERED on January 22, 2014.

\s\ Mary E. Nelson
MARY E. NELSON
Commissioner